

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A peripheral apparatus comprising:

connecting means for connecting to a host computer;

5 first means for, in response to a data reading request which is issued from said host computer, notifying said connecting means of response data in the case where the response data has been prepared and notifying said connecting means of the fact that a
10 response cannot be made in the case where the response data is not prepared yet;

second means for notifying said connecting means of the absence of data to be responded in response to the data reading request which is issued from said host
15 computer; and

switching means for switching said first means and said second means in accordance with a status of the peripheral apparatus.

20 2. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising second connecting means different from said connecting means,

and wherein in case of processing data from said second connecting means, said switching means switches
25 to said second means.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said connecting means is connected to said host computer through a cable which conforms with a USB standard or an IEEE1394 standard.

5 4. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
said connecting means is connected to said host
computer through a cable which conforms with a USB
standard or an IEEE1394 standard, and said second
10 connecting means is connected to said host computer
through a cable which conforms with an IEEE1284
standard.

 5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said first means notifies of the response data by a
15 data packet, and said second means notifies of the fact
that said response cannot be made by an Nak packet, and
notifies of the absence of the data to be responded by
a blank packet.

20 6. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said peripheral apparatus includes a printer.

 7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said peripheral apparatus includes a scanner.

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 8. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said peripheral apparatus includes a facsimile.

9. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said switching means switches to said second means at a timing when a printer engine or a scanner engine operates.

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10. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said switching means switches to said second means at a timing when print data is received, a timing when a development of the print data is started, or a timing when the development of the print data is finished.

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11. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said switching means switches to said second means at a timing when an engine control is performed, when the data is received, when a development of the data is started, or when the development of the data is finished, switches to said first means when an error occurs, switches to said second means when the error is recovered, and switches to said first means when a job is finished,

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and after switching to said first means when the error occurs, error information is notified to said connecting means.

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12. A peripheral apparatus comprising:
first connecting means for connecting to a host computer;

second connecting means for connecting to the host computer;

first means for, in response to a data reading request which is issued from said host computer, notifying said first connecting means of response data in the case where the response data has been prepared and notifying said first connecting means of the fact that a response cannot be made in the case where the response data is not prepared yet;

10 second means for notifying said first connecting means of the absence of data to be responded in response to the data reading request which is issued from said host computer; and

switching means for switching to said second means in case of processing by using said second connecting means.

13. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein in case of processing by using said first connecting means, said switching means switches said first means and said second means in accordance with a status of the apparatus.

14. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein in case of processing by using said first connecting means, said switching means switches to said second means when an engine control is performed, when data is

received, when a development of the data is started, or when the development of the data is finished, and switches to said first means when a job is finished.

5 15. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein in case of processing by using said first connecting means, said switching means switches to said second means when an engine control is performed, when data is received, when a development of the data is started, or
10 when the development of the data is finished, switches to said first means when an error occurs, switches to said second means when the error is recovered, and switches to said first means when a job is finished, and after switching to said first means when the
15 error occurs, error information is notified to said first connecting means.

 16. A control method for a peripheral apparatus, comprising the steps of:
20 when a status of the apparatus is a first status, switching a control mode to a first mode such that in response to a data reading request which is issued from a host computer, when response data has been prepared, the response data is notified, and when the response
25 data is not prepared yet, the fact that a response cannot be made is notified; and

 when the status of the apparatus is not the first

status, switching the control mode to a second mode such that in response to the data reading request which is issued from the host computer, the absence of data to be responded is notified.

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17. A method according to claim 16, wherein in case of processing data from a second host, the control mode is switched to said second mode.

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18. A method according to claim 16, wherein said response data is notified by using a data packet, said fact that the response cannot be made is notified by using an Nak packet, and said absence of the data to be responded is notified by using a blank packet.

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19. A method according to claim 16, wherein the control mode is switched to said second mode at a timing when a printer engine or a scanner engine operates.

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20. A method according to claim 16, wherein the control mode is switched to said second mode at a timing when print data is received, a timing when a development of the print data is started, or a timing when the development of the print data is finished.

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21. A method according to claim 16, wherein the

control mode is switched to said second mode when an engine control is performed, when data is received, when a development of the data is started, or when the development of the data is finished, is switched to
5 said first mode when an error occurs, is switched to said second mode when the error is recovered, and is switched to said first mode when a job is finished, and after the control mode is switched to said first mode when the error occurs, error information is
10 notified.

22. A control method for a peripheral apparatus, comprising the steps of:

when a process using first connecting means is
15 started, switching a control mode to a first mode such that the absence of data to be responded is notified to second connecting means in response to a data reading request which is issued from a host computer; and

when the process using said first connecting means
20 is finished, switching the control mode to a second mode such that in response to the data reading request which is issued from said host computer, when response data has been prepared, the response data is notified to said first connecting means and, when the response
25 data is not prepared yet, the fact that the response cannot be made is notified to said first connecting means.

23. A method according to claim 22, wherein in case of processing by using said second connecting means, said first mode and said second mode are switched in accordance with a status of the apparatus.

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24. A method according to claim 22, wherein in case of processing by using said second connecting means, the control mode is switched to said first mode when an engine control is performed, when data is received, when a development of the data is started, or when the development of the data is finished, and the control mode is switched to said second mode when a job is finished.

25. A method according to claim 22, wherein in case of processing by using said second connecting means, the control mode is switched to said first mode when an engine control is performed, when data is received, when a development of the data is started, or when the development of the data is finished, is switched to said second mode when an error occurs, is switched to said first mode when the error is recovered, and is switched to said second mode when a job is finished,

and after the control mode is switched to said second mode when the error occurs, error information is notified to said second connecting means.

26. A computer-readable memory medium which stores a program, the program comprising the steps of:

when a status of the apparatus is a first status, switching a control mode to a first mode such that in response to a data reading request which is issued from a host computer, when response data has been prepared, the response data is notified, and when the response data is not prepared yet, the fact that a response cannot be made is notified; and

when the status of the apparatus is not the first status, switching the control mode to a second mode such that in response to the data reading request which is issued from said host computer, the absence of data to be responded is notified.

27. A medium according to claim 26, wherein in case of processing data from a second host, the control mode is switched to said second mode.

28. A medium according to claim 26, wherein said medium stores a program such that said response data is notified by using a data packet, said fact that the response cannot be made is notified by using an Nak packet, and said absence of the data to be responded is notified by using a blank packet.

29. A medium according to claim 26, wherein said

medium stores a program for switching the control mode to said second mode at a timing when a printer engine or a scanner engine operates.

5 30. A medium according to claim 26, wherein said medium stores a program for switching the control mode to said second mode at a timing when print data is received, a timing when a development of the print data is started, or a timing when the development of the
10 print data is finished.

31. A medium according to claim 26, wherein said medium stores a program such that

15 the control mode is switched to said second mode when an engine control is performed, when data is received, when a development of the data is started, or when the development of the data is finished, is
20 switched to said first mode when an error occurs, is switched to said second mode when the error is recovered, and is switched to said first mode when a job is finished,

 and after the control mode is switched to said first mode when the error occurs, error information is notified.

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32. A computer-readable memory medium which stores a program, the program comprising the steps of:

when a process using first connecting means is started, switching a control mode to a first mode such that the absence of data to be responded is notified to second connecting means in response to a data reading request which is issued from a host computer; and

when the process using said first connecting means is finished, switching the control mode to a second mode such that in response to the data reading request which is issued from the host computer, when response data has been prepared, the response data is notified to said first connecting means and, when the response data is not prepared yet, the fact that the response cannot be made is notified to said first connecting means.

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33. A medium according to claim 32, wherein said medium stores a program for switching said first mode and said second mode in accordance with a status of the apparatus in case of processing by using said second connecting means.

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34. A medium according to claim 32, wherein said medium stores a program for switching the control mode to said first mode when an engine control is performed, when data is received, when a development of the data is started, or when the development of the data is finished in case of processing by using said second

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connecting means, and switching the control mode to said second mode when a job is finished.

35. A medium according to claim 32, wherein said
5 medium stores a program such that in case of processing
by using said second connecting means, the control mode
is switched to said first mode when an engine control
is performed, when data is received, when a development
of the data is started, or when the development of the
10 data is finished, is switched to said second mode when
an error occurs, is switched to said first mode when
the error is recovered, and is switched to said second
mode when a job is finished,

and after the control mode is switched to said
15 second mode when the error occurs, error information is
notified to said second connecting means.

36. An information processing system comprising
a host computer; and
20 a peripheral apparatus,
wherein said peripheral apparatus comprises:
connecting means for connecting to a host
computer;

first means for, in response to a data reading
25 request which is issued from the host computer,
notifying said connecting means of response data in the
case where the response data has been prepared and

notifying said connecting means of the fact that a response cannot be made in the case where the response data is not prepared yet;

second means for notifying said connecting means
5 of the absence of data to be responded in response to the data reading request which is issued from the host computer; and

switching means for switching said first means and said second means in accordance with a status of the
10 peripheral apparatus.

37. An information processing system comprising
a first host computer;
a second host computer; and
15 a peripheral apparatus,
wherein said peripheral apparatus comprises:
first connecting means for connecting to said
first host computer;

second connecting means for connecting to said
20 second host computer;

first means for, in response to a data reading request which is issued from the host computer, notifying said first connecting means of response data in the case where the response data has been prepared
25 and notifying said first connecting means of the fact that a response cannot be made in the case where the response data is not prepared yet;

second means for notifying said first connecting means of the absence of data to be responded in response to the data reading request which is issued from the host computer; and

- 5 switching means for switching to said second means in case of processing by using said second connecting means.